

Sonia Curry
TESC MPA Program Application
SOP
March, 16th 2023

Growing up, education has always been a focal point in my life. My father has worked in education for as long as I can remember. He is a psychology instructor. I would attend some of his classes, listen to him instruct, and visit the college that he worked as a staff member at. I recall how often I would think, “Man, this is so cool! My dad is so knowledgeable and helps people better themselves for a living!” and thus, my passion for education and positive psychology was born.

I have been working in higher education for about 4 years now, and there is nothing more rewarding to me than helping others on the path they are building for themselves. I started off in a community college as a program specialist for a few grants that assist the underserved population. Working closely with those who were vulnerable enough to ask for help quickly enforced this growing passion that has been spreading throughout my psyche like a wildfire. While in that position, I began thinking back to when I was in school, more specifically, the support I had while there. I realized it was virtually nonexistent or invisible to me. I want to be the support that connects those in need to what they need. I want to be what I didn’t have. Part of being in this role is, at times, working with those who might suffer from some mental struggles. A lot of working with people who are mentally struggling in some capacity is giving a new perspective. One that is positive, that can bring them out of the rut or pit they may feel they are in.

Part of why I chose The Evergreen State College as my choice is due to the flexibility of the program. I want to pursue my masters in public administration to better my education and build my path with a stronger foundation. I hope to grow a better understanding of how to have a healthier work environment, and the learning community that The Evergreen State

Sonia Curry
TESC MPA Program Application
SOP
March, 16th 2023

College is immersed in helps me build bridges over the gaps that I was missing. Since being at Evergreen, I've studied many psychology courses, a writing course, an organizational leadership course, a course where I was working with incarcerated youth. This is an education that I truly was able to build for myself and really add to the passions that I've been brewing. Having the opportunity to choose and pick what sounds interesting to me, choosing what I want to invest my time and money into, really made going to school a realistic option for me. I appreciate the mission of the MPA program because it speaks to my own values. I believe the importance of working with unity and harmony in the community we create for ourselves. I value the strength to advocate not only for myself, but for those whose voice may not be heard as well as mine.

The elements of the Evergreen MPA mission that draw me to the program is all of them, truly. I practice all these elements in my day-to-day. Working at a community college, I see the inequities that we build, unknowingly, into the system. I see the ways in which we can change for the better, I just need a better educational foundation to speak on what I know and be heard on the level in which it would make a difference. I recognize the hierarchy that plays a role in our workplace, and the politics you have to play to appease the masses. I want to learn how to overcome these systemic barriers we put in place by learning the best ways to completely remove them.

I hope to be considered for the Tacoma Evergreen MPA program so I can become the next version of myself, because I am ever evolving with every experience I encounter. I am a working single mother, and I consistently try to show my daughter that things come as long as we work for them. We can have, be, and do anything we put our mind and efforts to. Working towards a bigger picture will also be something I pride myself on doing.

Sonia Curry
TESC MPA Program Application
SOP
March, 16th 2023